

**Podcast #2 on DV, Focusing on Education**  
**November/December 2009**  
**Questions and Answers**

**Introduction**

We are speaking with a consular officer from the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos about the education and work requirements for the 2011 Diversity Visa Program.

**Q: If the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos could send one message to DV applicants, what would the message be?**

A: If listeners take away just one thing from today's podcast, it should be this: Don't apply for the DV unless you are sure that you meet the education or work requirements for the program. And please keep in mind that only you, the DV winner—and not your spouse—can meet these requirements.

**Q1: So if I receive a “Congratulations” letter saying my name was chosen, will I receive a visa?**

A: Not necessarily. Being selected for the DV lottery is the first step in the process, but it does NOT guarantee you will receive a visa. Receiving a “Congratulations” letter gives you the opportunity to apply for a visa. Among other requirements applicable to all immigrant visa applicants, such as the medical report, you must also meet the special educational or occupational requirements of the DV program to receive a visa.

These educational or occupational requirements must be met completely at the time of your interview.

**Q2: So what are the special educational or occupational qualifications?**

A: To qualify for the DV program, you must have the equivalent of a U.S. high school diploma. In Nigeria, this means you must have 5 scores of “6” or higher in 5 different subjects on the WAEC, SSCE, NECO, or NABTEB certified exams. You may also qualify with a BSC degree, HND, or OND from an accredited university or polytechnic institution.

**Q3: Do all subjects on WAEC or NECO count for the purposes of the DV?**

No. To qualify, the subjects must be academic subjects such as English, biology, or math. Trade subjects, for example plumbing or garment making, do not count for the program.

**Q4: Okay. Can I combine scores from different exams?**

You can. Any combination of exams from different years can be combined. For example, you can use 3 passing scores from a WAEC exam from 2002 and 2 passing scores from a NECO exam in 2003 that will qualify for the program. However, each of the 5 passing scores MUST be in different subjects.

**Q5: Okay. What else should I bring to the interview to demonstrate my educational qualifications?**

At the time of interview, you should bring the official exam certificate or a computer printout with an unused scratch card. If you have a higher educational qualification, such as a National Diploma, Higher National Diploma, or a University degree, you should bring the appropriate certificate. And transcripts, though not required, are very helpful. National youth service completion certificates also - not required, but helpful if you have them.

Please Do NOT bring fake certificates (even if they happen to show your real scores!)—you will be disqualified.

Please also Do NOT bring scores from exams for which you did not sit yourself—you will be disqualified.

**Q6: So what if I don't meet the educational requirements? Can I qualify because of my occupation?**

Yes, in some circumstances. I should note however, that the vast majority of applicants qualify based on their education.

Your occupation does NOT automatically qualify you for a visa. To qualify, you need two or more years of recent experience in a Level 4 or 5 occupation as defined by the U.S. Department of Labor. Do NOT be misled, as many people posing as “visa agents” will wrongly tell you that your occupation will qualify.

While there are many occupations listed on the Department Of Labor website, only certain specified occupations qualify for the purposes of the DV Program.

**Q7: So how do I find out whether my occupation is Job Zone 4 or 5?**

A couple of different ways. First, you can find a link to the Department of Labor website from the instructions that are available at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). Or, you can go directly to the Department of Labor website at <http://online.onetcenter.org/find/>.

Once you are on the website, enter your occupational job where it says “keyword”; then click “go”. After the page loads, either click “Job Zone” or scroll down until you reach the section titled “Job Zone”.

To qualify for the Diversity Visa, you must, within the past five years, have two years of experience in an occupation that is designated as Job Zone 4 or 5.

And this is a common source of confusion; just because your occupation is listed on the website does NOT mean that you have a qualifying occupation. You MUST go to the job zone section to confirm it is a level 4 or 5 job.

**Q8: Thank you very much. What if I don't meet the educational or occupational requirements? Should I still apply?**

A: No. Do not apply if you do not meet the educational or occupational requirements. You will not receive a visa and you will also lose any application fees that you have paid; all application fees are non-refundable. Do not be misled by those who say that you may be given the visa

without these requirements. Just this week, we had to refuse an applicant with a family of seven because he had been incorrectly told by an outside agent that he was occupationally qualified for the program. This person lost over \$5,000 in application fees (which is the equivalent of about 814,000 naira) and should never have applied in the first place because he was not qualified. We don't want this to happen to you and other applicants.

So, please look over the qualifications carefully before deciding whether or not you should complete your Diversity Visa application, and if you do not meet the educational requirements that I have talked about or if you do not have recent experience in an occupation that is designated as Job Zone 4 or 5, do NOT apply for the Diversity Visa as you will not qualify.

I would like to add one note about fees: it is free to register online for the DV program, and you should not pay ANY fees until you physically enter the Consulate building on the day of your interview.

**Q9: Where can I go for more information about these requirements and about the Diversity Visa lottery?**

The best place to go for more information is [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). This website should be your ONLY source for accurate information about the DV program. Do not be misled by people claiming to be agents of the Consulate or by those claiming to be experts about the lottery. The Consulate has no authorized agents who process DV applications in Nigeria who do not work in the Consulate building.

In addition, you may also email [LagosIV@state.gov](mailto:LagosIV@state.gov) for more information, or if you have become the victim of an agent. That is [LagosIV@state.gov](mailto:LagosIV@state.gov).

**Q10: Thank you very much. We have been speaking with a consular officer from the United States Consulate General in Lagos and the focus has been on the educational and work requirements of the 2011 Diversity Visa Lottery program. Thank you for coming.**

Thank you